

10/11
Strange News
FROM
FRANCE,
BEING
II. LETTERS

FROM
A French Protestant Gentleman
at B L O I S,
To a Person of QUALITY
at WESTMINSTER.

Giving an Account of the late Extraordinary Tempest
that lately hapned there, accompanied with Hail-stones as big
as a Mans fist, whereby two Churches and several Houses
were beat down, many others lamentably shatter'd, the Slates
and Windowes throughout all the Town Batter'd to pieces,
and all the Corn and Vines in Eight Parishes utterly destroy-
ed; to the Damage of Two Hundred Thousand Crowns and
upwards.

In all which Calamity, the Protestant Church was
Miraculously preserved entire, and not so much
as a Slate or any Glasse broken.

With Allowance.

London: Printed for L. C. 1678.

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BEQUEST OF
WILLIAM S. THAYER
JANUARY 16, 1933

ILLUSTRATIONS

A French Protestant Gentleman
To a Region of Quality
at WEST MAY STER

Giving an Account of the late Extraordinary Tempest
that lately passed there; accompanied with Histories as big
as a Mans fist, whereby two Churches and several Houses
were beat down, many others lamely shak'd, the Stairs
and Windows throughout all the Town burst'd to pieces,
and all the Corn and Vines in East Parish much destroy'd;
ed; to the Damage of Two hundred Thousand Crowns and
upwards.
In all which Calamity, the Protestant Church was
Miraculously preserved entire, and made much
as a State of any Christians.

With Allowance. London: Printed for L. C. 1698.



Strange News

From France.

THe matter of the subsequent Narrative being of undoubted Truth, and not only extraordinary in its self, but attended with several remarkable, and indeed wonderful Circumstances; I could not but think it worthy of Publication, that we may all admire the singular Providence of God in so calamitous a disaster.

The place where it happened, is the Town of Blois in France, situate on the great River called the Loire (which runs up from Nantes some hundreds of Miles) and seated very pleasantly between the two Eminent Cities Tours and Orleans; being especially famous for the purity of the French Tongue, which throughout the whole Kingdom is nowhere spoken with more elegance or exactness than there: Whence most of our Teachers of that Language are wont to acquaint themselves to have been Professors thereof heretofore at the said Town of Blois.

The Relation was communicated from a French Gentleman at that time residing there, to his Friend a Person of Quality in London, which we shall give you in his own words, from the Extract of two Letters, as far as concerns this wonderful Accident.

An Abstract of a Letter from
Paris in France, to a French Gentleman in London, dated June 13 1678.

Honoured Sir, I Received yours of the first Instant, and in answer to the Contents, refer you to the inclosed, wherein you may perceive my utmost endeavors have not been wanting, and with the success may be answerable to the passion I have to serve you. As for publick News, I doubt not but you may be better furnished from your more intelligent Correspondents, and therefore shall not trouble you with my uncertain conjectures at those grand Affairs which all Europe regards with a curious, but doubtful Eye. This very place affords me a lamentable Accident to acquaint you with, which it may be more your Interest to be informed of, since several of your Friends and Acquaintance have been disastously concerned in it. For the hand of God hath been felt within these three days, very heavy on this Town, and the parts adjacent,

admirable having a way of his own by his own will-
ful and amazing Tempest, the like whereof I be-
lieve hath scarce been known in any Age, but
began between Midnight and one of the Clock
in the Morning, but with such violence as soon
frighted the most sleep from the minds of us, and
by its Impetuosity beat or blew down all the Body
of the Church of St. Sophia, except the Bellry,
as likewise half of the Jesuits Church, and six or
seven Houses in the High Street, the people of which
were glad to run into their Attched Gallies to
save themselves from whence they have since been
drawn out alive. This Tempest was accompani-
ed with a most prodigious Hail, many thousands
stones being found as big as a Mans fist, as thing
so wonderful to relate, that I should not think
eye-witness. I should not have presumed to affirm
it, lest you should suspect it as incredible.
This unusual Artillery of Heaven did break all
the Slates of the Houses, whereon they were cov-
ered, and the Glasse windowes all over the Town
as if they had been beat in a Mortar. Without
the Town there are Eight whole Parishes utterly
ruined by the Hail, in such a terrible manner,
that one cannot now perceive that there was
ever any Corn sown, or Vines planted in any of
them. So strange is every thing batter'd down,
and laid in a confused desolation. The damage
sustained in the Town by the breaking of the
Slate and Windows, is modestly esteemed to be

Two

Two Hundred Thousand Crows; and the harm
abroad in Cornfields and Vineyards, so great
and general, that (for the present at least) it is
invaluable.

But in the midst of Gods Judgments, his Mercy
to us is fully to be admired, that in this so general
Calamity, his House where we do assemble to
praise his holy Name, I mean our Protestant Tem-
ple, hath been in a wonderful manner preserved.
For though it stood as much exposed to the Wea-
ther, as any building in the Town, and that all
round it the direful marks of the Tempest were
sadly visible, yet it remained entire, and not so
much as a Shere or any Glass broken, which is
generally taken notice of here, as a most remark-
able protection of Providence. I do not yet hear
of any Persons killed, though very probably there
may be some. In my next you may expect a larger
or more exact Account. In the mean time (as
ever) I am

Yours, &c.

THE

it is probable more mischief might have befallen their

THE

But I rather attribute it to the special Mercy of

SECOND LETTER

Therefore to him we give the Praises of our Deli-

verance to his blessed Name, Amen, 1878

Since my last, I have received yours of the 24th New Style: In answer to which you shall know, That the Eight Parishes which have been utterly ruined by the Hail near this Town, as I told you in my last, are these: *Chiteny, Cove, Celester, Villabaron, Malfans, St. Botre, Orchaife, and St. Lubin*: Besides which, there are four other Parishes have been also much endamaged, but not altogether ruined, as the other are; viz. *Landon, Adaddon, Les Montils, and Blundé*. This Town of *Blas* was miserably shatter'd by the Hail, as well as the *Windy Storm* that preceded it. Multitudes of Chimneys were beaten down; so that every body hath received more or less damage.

Our House hath not escaped free, any more than the rest; but the Lords Name be praised, that we have had all our Lives given us, and that neither Man, Woman, or Childe, that I can hear of, were hurt to Death: Of which our immediate reason given is, that the Desolation hapned at such at a time, when all people were in their Houses; whereas had they been stirring abroad,

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tis probable more mischief might have befall their
Persons.

THE
But I rather attribute it to the special Mercy of
the Almighty and our Heavenly Father:
Therefore to him we give the Praises of our Deli-
verance: and to his blessed Protection commit
you, &c.

Since my last, I have received yours of the 24th
New stile: in answer to which you shall
know, That the Eight Parishes which have been
utterly ruined by the Hail near this Town, as I
told you in my last, are these: Chitney, Cove,
~~Celmar, Willesdon, Holford, St. Botolph, Overdale,~~
and St. Ives: Besides which, there are four other
Parishes have been also much codamaged, but
not altogether ruined, as the other are; viz. Lan-
don, Staddon, Le. Montis, and Bland. This
Town of St. Ives was miserably shattered by the Hail,
as well as the ~~Willy~~ ~~Willy~~ preceded it.
Multitudes of Chimneys were beaten down; so
that every body hath received more or less da-
mage.

Our House hath not escaped free, any more
than the rest; but the Lords Name be praised,
that we have had all our Lives given us, and that
neither Man, Woman, or Child, that I can hear
of, were hurt or dead: Of which our immediate
reason given is, that the Delocation happened at
such a time, when all people were in their
houses; whereas had they been stirring abroad,
tis

